

Inquiry on History of House at 529 E. Howard in Pontiac

General Info on House Histories

House histories is the most difficult area of local history to research because there are no good databases of home ownership that exist.

Complete Title/Abstract

Prior to about 1968, each time a house was sold, a complete Title/Abstract document was prepared. This document actually tracked the ownership of the land or lot, not the house itself. It traced the ownership of the land from the time it was first surveyed and who first bought the land from the U.S. government.

These documents became very thick over time, often running 40 to 50 pages long. If someone transferred ownership of the lot/house using a will, often a copy of that will was included in the document.

Because the documents go so long, they were stopped in Livingston County around 1968. Some of the documents prepared before 1968 were passed along to each new home owner and still exist today. If one can find a copy of this document, this is the most complete history of a lot/house that exists. Unfortunately, very few of these old documents still exist.

Here [is a link](#) to an example of a complete title/abstract from a house in Fairbury.

https://archive.org/details/complete-title-abstract-for-211-south-fourth-street-in-fairbury-illinois_202306


Year Built


The Livingston County property tax assessor web site lets you search for free on data on houses in Livingston County. This includes the year the house was built. I have found the year built data to be over 90% accurate. Some exceptions are houses that were moved from one location to another (e.g. house in Avoca moved into Fairbury).

Here [is a link](#) to this site.

<https://livingston.illinoisassessors.com/search.php>

The tax assessor's web site says this home was built in 1894.

 **LIVINGSTON COUNTY ASSESSOR**

Assessor Hub provided by Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. 

Home | Real Estate Search

Parcel Number: 15-15-23-161-004

Deed Holder: HODGSON SCOTT

Deed Holder 2: HODGSON RAVEN

Property Address: 529 E HOWARD ST
PONTIAC, IL 61764-0000 [MAP THIS ADDRESS](#)

Class: RESIDENTIAL

Map Area: PONTIAC1 CORP

Legal Description: 15-23-161-004 LOT 90 X 156.2 E1/2 OF S156 1/4' OF BLK 1 LADD & MCDOWELLS ADD

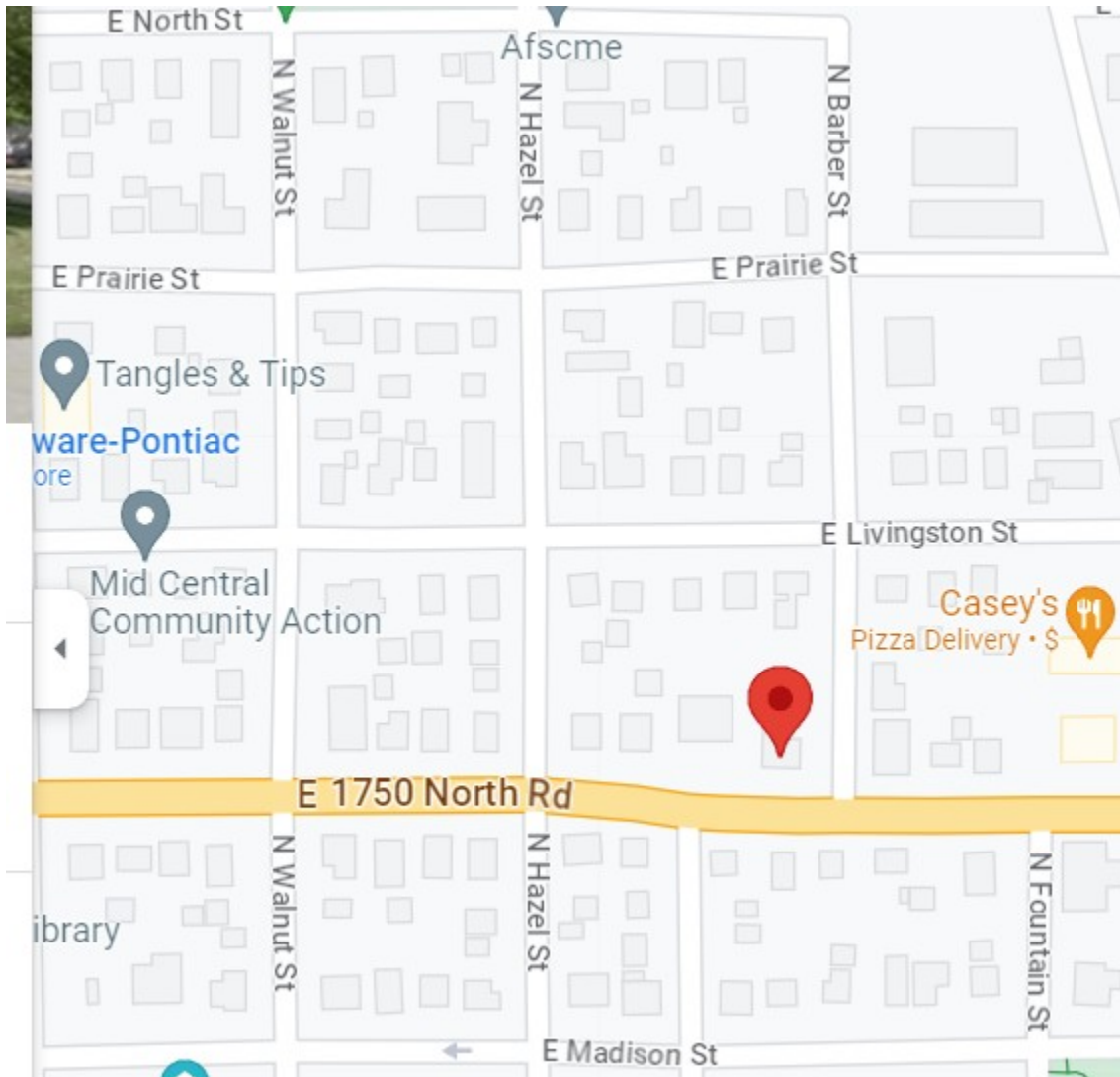
Tax Information: [TAX INFORMATION](#)

Final 2022 Assessed Values				
N/F Land Value	N/F Building Value	Farm Land Value	Farm Building Value	Total Value
\$3,248	\$39,786	\$0	\$0	\$43,034

Land Information		
Lot Type	Square Feet	Acres
Lump Sum	0	0.000

Residential Building Information			
Occupancy	Style	Year Built	Total Living Area
Single-Family	2 Story Frame	1894	2,534

Google Maps



Sanborn Maps

The Sanborn Insurance Company made maps of various Central Illinois cities including Pontiac, Illinois. They were usually made over several different years, so you can see how a town grew over time.

Below [is a link](#) to all Pontiac Sanborn Maps.

<https://metadata.library.illinois.edu/search?q=sanborn+maps#q=sanborn%20maps&q=pontiac%20sanborn%20maps&dl-results-style=less&sort=>

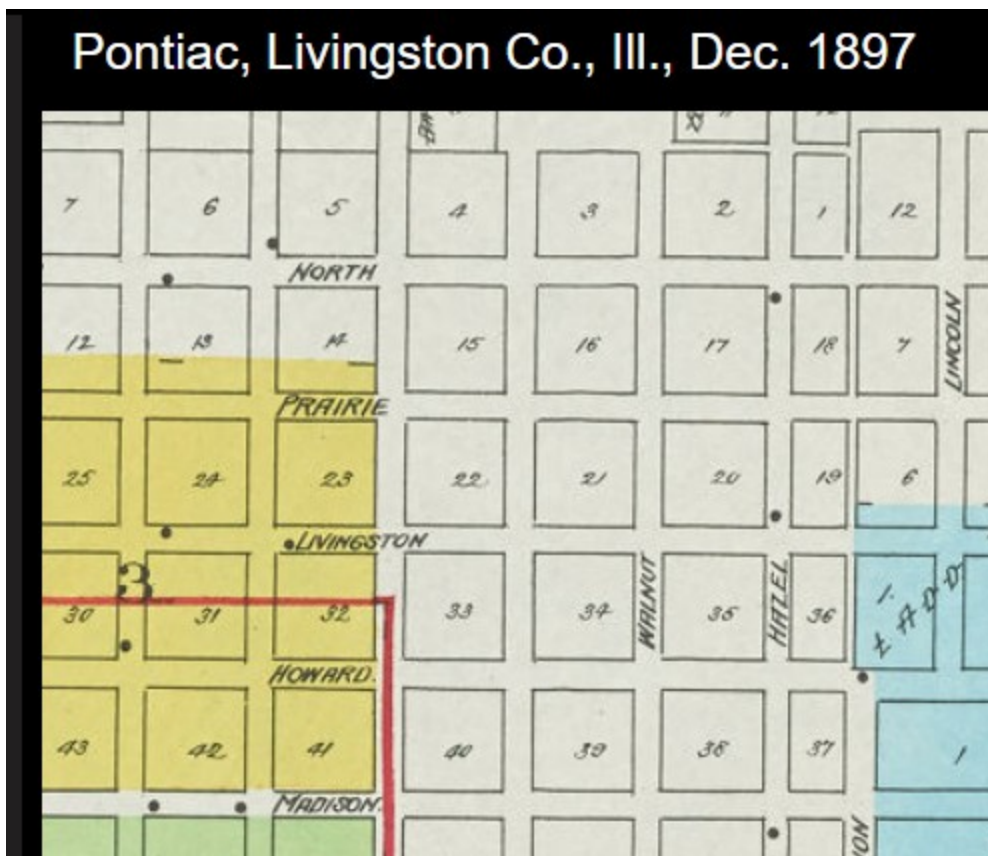
Maps were made of Pontiac for 1888, 1892, 1897, 1903, 1910, and 1923. A review of these maps shows that Pontiac started north of the Vermilion River, likely because the

area south of the river flooded often. In later years, houses started to be added south of the river.

These maps do not cover every single house in a particular year. If only a few houses were in that area, the maps may not show it.

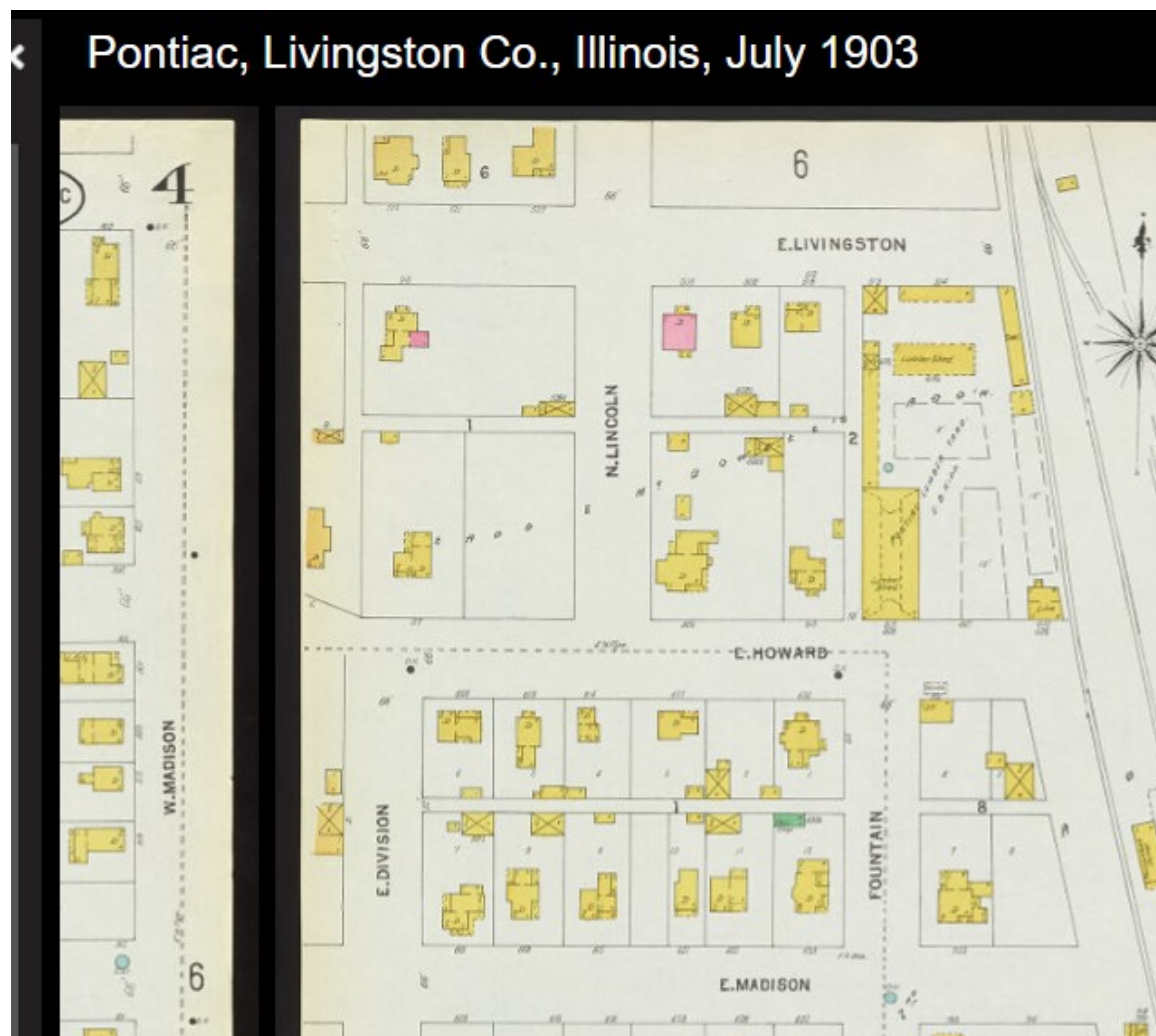
Since this house was built in 1894, the next Sanborn map which might show it will be 1897.

This house is at the northwest corner of N. Barber Street and Howard.



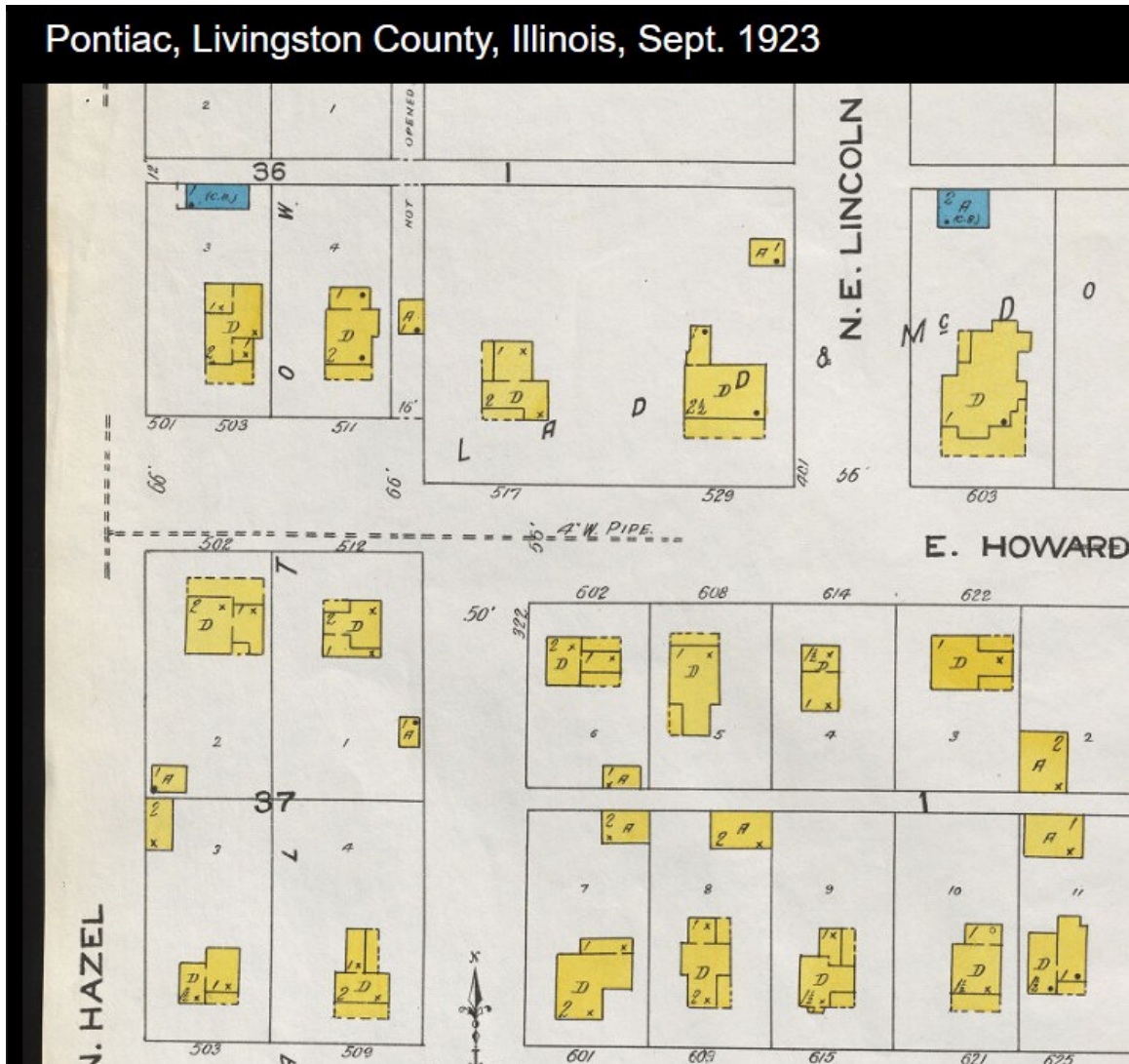
Unfortunately, there were not enough houses built in this area to be shown on this year of the map.

The 1903 map also does not show this house.



1923 Sanborn Map

The house does show up on this map.



One can further explore these Sanborn maps using the Internet address above.

Pontiac Daily Leader

Unfortunately, the Leader has not been fully digitized yet.

GenealogyBank.com is a paid subscription service that has 1958 to 1970.

News Article

Pontiac Daily Leader | Friday, Jul 08, 1966

of 2 matches < > Q "529 e. howard"

Sacramento, Calif., visited recently with his grandparents, the Rev. and Mrs. K. F. Krughoff, at Even-glow Lodge.

Spring and summer suits at greatly reduced prices.—Westall's.—Advertisement.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard H. Wynant, 815 N. Hazel St., celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary Thursday. They were married July 7, 1917, at Marion, Ark.

Mrs. Robert Troy, 529 E. How-ard St., and her daughter, Mrs. Frank Trainor, 1724 S. Oak St., were in St. Anne Wednesday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Troy's sister-in-law, Mrs. Gilbert Magee.

Hospita

St. J

Visiting hours 2

ADMITTED

Richard Jensen, cal.

George William St., medical.

Mrs. Marguerit medical.

Mrs. Daniel 1 Madison St., med

Mrs. Francis F route 1, medical.

Pontiac Daily Leader
Page 3 Sat., Nov. 29, '69

Supper Table Talk

Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Troy, 529 E. Howard St., are their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Sanders and family of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and also Airman Michael Sanders of Memphis, Tenn.; also their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James Troy, and children, Pam and Robbie, of Urbana.

Conrad E. Pagel 106 W First

News Article

The Pontiac Daily Leader | Monday, Jun 15, 1959

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Springfield this morning to visit their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Sullivan.

Dr. T. J. Boner, Pontiac, will be installed as commander of the Livingston county council of the American Legion by State Commander Dr. Leonard W. Asper, Springfield, at a meeting at the billet tonight.

A shower was given Tuesday evening by Miss Beulah Troy and Miss Bernice Gschwendtner at the Troy home, 529 E. Howard street, in honor of Miss Alice Nofsinger, who is to be married to Harold Bressner June 23.

The Esmen Willing Workers & H club met Wednesday in Esmen Methodist church basement.

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News Article

| Wednesday, Dec 30, | Pont
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"529 e. howard" Fi

d relatives in the Bloomington
s. area during the holidays.

il Bargains in all departments.
The Hub. — Advertisement.

y Mr. and Mrs. Robert Troy, 529
h E. Howard St., entertained over
r the holidays their daughter and
d husband, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond
n Sanders of Cedar Rapids, Iowa;
t. their son and family, Mr. and
w Mrs. James Troy and Pam and
Robbie of Urbana; their grand-
son, Mike Sanders, who is with
the Navy at Chase Field,
n Beeville, Tex., and his fiancée,
n Miss Beverly Crile of Fort
it Madison, Iowa; and their
daughter and family, Mr. and
n Mrs. Frank Trainor and Annette
and Beth of Pontiac.

So, it looks like the Troy family lived in the house from 1958 to 1970.

Ancestry.com

This is another paid subscription service which has the 1971 to 1977 Leader.

A search in ancestry.com for “529 e. howard” found zero hits.

Pantagraph Archives

This is another paid subscription service which has the Pantagraph from 1865 to 2023.

Nov 2, 1972.....

Loren Powell, Rod McMahon—Auctioneers

PUBLIC SALE

I have sold my house and will sell at public auction-household goods, antiques, and miscellaneous items at:
529 E. Howard St., Pontiac, Ill.
Sun., Nov. 26, 1972. Time: 12:30

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Kelvinator refrigerator with freezer compartment; Roper 40" gas stove; 8 piece mahogany dining room set, pad and chairs with padded seats; 2 piece living room suite, grey; 1 green and 1 beige platform rockers; studio couch; Hollywood bed, complete; 12'x21' rose-beige rug; 9'x12' green tweed rug; 24" metal and 40" wood cabinet bases; Magnavox black and white television; 2 mahogany end tables; small maple drop leaf end table; 8 odd straight chairs; small table; steamer trunk; foot locker; play pen; chrome high chair; wrought iron tea cart; iron bed, complete; Maytag wringer washer; pole light; double rinse tubs; Westinghouse toaster; pop-up toaster; electric waffle iron; electric skillet; pedestal cake plate; Cuckoo clock; Heat Ray heat lamp; 150 old records; sheets, blankets, pillows, quilts and linens and other items too numer to mention.

ANTIQUES AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Brass double bed, real good; tall oak wardrobe with plate glass mirrored doors, over 100 years old; balsam wood 4 drawer chest with glove boxes and carved design trim; 3 drawer chest with marble center piece and teardrop pulls; walnut 5 drawer chest with glove boxes; oak dresser with curved front; oak veneer dresser; wicker rocking chair; commode; oak writing desk; oak folding student desk; oak glass door cabinet; 5 drawer oak chest; oak swivel desk chair; walnut twin bedsteads; camelback trunk; oak rocker; small oak table; copper boiler; 3 old irons and 1 detachable handle; leather collar box and celluloid collars; hat pins; pair Granny glasses and other items.

Terms—Cash. Not responsible for accidents.

EDITH TROY
Carl Ronnow, Auctioneer
Pontiac, Ill. Ph. 844-6671 or 842-1590



"529 e. howa



1 of 1 matches

The Daily Leader
05 Dec 1972, Tue · Page 10

Issue building permits totaling \$193,000

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Twenty-six permits for building and related work, with a total estimated value of \$193,345, were issued in the office of City Building Inspector Clarence Jones during November.

Included in building permits

store at 109 W. Madison St.;

— Roscoe Bertram to construct a garage at 121 Diller St.;

— William Hoggins to apply siding at 625 W. Lincoln;

— Hugh J. Duffy to remodel a house at 529 E. Howard St.;

— Two to L and S Building

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Pontiac BPW names Woman of the Year

By WANDA LEATHER
Pontagraph staff

PONTIAC — Barbara House, program supervisor and in-service coordinator of the Livingston County Special Service Unit, received the Woman of the Year award last night from the Pontiac Business and Professional Women.

The award, presented to women in business or the professions, is based on leadership ability, scholastic achievement, participation in community or church activities, poise and speaking ability.



Mrs. House

Mrs. House of 529 E. Howard St. has lived in Pontiac for the past two years and is involved in special education. She has a master's degree from Illinois State University and is working toward her doctorate there.

She will compete in district competition March 14 in Pontiac.

Carolyn Elliott presented the award.

This is the second year the award has been presented in Pontiac. Last year's winner was Susan Pellegrine, staff assistant to the administrator at Pontiac Correctional Center. She was a runner-up in 1981 district competition.

Guidelines are set by the national and state federation of BPW. Candidates must be between 21 and 30 years of age, be employed in business or the professions with at least one year of full-time work experience, and be training or continuing education.

Judges this year were Karen Viemont, Betsy Semmens and Gail Nelson.

Reagan aide to talk

Feb 19, 1982

Old Phone Pontiac Books

Searching old phone books is another way to see who used to live in a house. None of these for Pontiac have been digitized yet. I suspect the Pontiac Library has old phone books that can be manually searched to see who lived at an address.

Property Tax Records

In the basement of the old courthouse are the old property tax books. I have searched them in the 1850s when they started for records on the Strevell House built in 1855. You have to know what block number the house is in.

From the Livingston County tax assessors web site, looks like this house is in Block 1 of the Ladd & McDowell addition.

These records are not digitized, so you have to get permission and get escorted to the basement room that has the property tax books. Searching back in 1894 might be ok because there were relatively few houses in Pontiac. As time went by, the books get much thicker and more difficult to search because of the large number of houses.

Dale C. Maley
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Fairbury, IL 61739

815-692-6633

DaleMaley@Gmail.com

June 17, 2023